THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) M/s. Asian Vehicle Industries Ltd. have applied for industrial licence and financial and technical collaboration with M/s V/O Autoexport Moscow for the manufacture of passenger cars in units to be set up both in Domestic Tariff Area as well as in Export Processing Zone. The proposal envisages equity participation by the Soviet Collaborators upto 30 per cent.

Permission to sick companies to sell surplus land

2924. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction has recommended to Government to permit sick companies to sell surplus land with them; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The authority to grant permission for sale of surplus land is the concerned State Government and as such BIFR making a recommendation in this regard to the Central Government does not arise. The Board has been urging the State Governments to formulate policy packages including for sale of surplus land for rehabilitation of sick industrial units.

Interest of foreign countries to import two wheeler scooters and Motor-cycles from India

2925. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries have shown interest in the import of two wheeler scooters and motor cycles from India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The exports of two wheelers including scooters and motor-cycles have risen from Rs. 2.88 crores in the year 1985-86 to Rs. 7 crores during 1987-88 as per the provisional estimates of Engineering Export Promotion Council. Exports of these vehicles have been to various countries such as Japan, Nepal, Singapore, Australia, Sweden, U.K., Holland, Newsealand, Belgium, West Germany, Tanzania, Oman, Doha, Costa Rica, Egypt, Dubai, Sudan, Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Hongkong, Nicaragua, Turkey and Switzerland.

(c) Government has been encouraging the two wheeler manufacturers in the country for establishing new overseas markets for exports of the vehicles.

Agencies entrusted for fresh drilling in Krishna-Godavari Basin

2926. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 400 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th August, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the agencies which have been entrusted with the task of fresh drilling in Krishna-Godavari basins; and

(b) whether the output through earlier drilling has been put for the commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) ONGC is carrying out exploratory drilling in Krishna-Godavari basin. Some foreign oil companies are also expected to start exploratory drilling in this basin in 1989.